

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/550,952
Amendment filed January 25, 2008
Reply to OA dated September 25, 2007

REMARKS

Claims 1-8 are pending in this application, with claim 5 withdrawn from consideration. Specification is amended herein. No amendment is made to the claims. Minor amendments are made to the specification. Entry of this amendment and reconsideration of the rejections are respectfully requested. No new matter has been introduced by this Amendment.

The disclosure is objected to. (Office action paragraph no. 1)

The Examiner states that on pages 3 and 4, reference is made to specific claim numbers. The objection is overcome by the amendment to the specification, in which "Claim 1" is replaced with --a first embodiment--, etc.

Claims 1-4 and 6-8 are provisionally rejected on ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 8, 9, 11, 13, 17, 18, 19, 27, 28, 34, and 36 of copending Application No. 10/560,367. (Office action paragraph no. 3)

The rejection is obviated by the filing of a terminal disclaimer over copending application no. 10/560,367. The terminal disclaimer paper is co-filed with this Amendment.

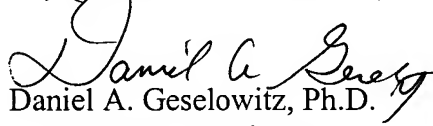
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If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the applicant's undersigned agent at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, the applicant respectfully petitions for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

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PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

Enclosures: Petition for Extension of Time
Terminal Disclaimer over USSN 10/560,367

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